# Alberta Finance
# Economic Bulletin

## ECONOMIC STATISTICS RELEASED DURING THE WEEK OF DECEMBER 10, 2001 TO DECEMBER 14, 2001

| | Reference Period | Month/Previous Month (m/m) | Month/Previous Year's Month (y/y) | Comments |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| New Housing Price Index | October | | | Overall in Canada, new house prices in October were up 2.8% over October of last year, with the largest increases posted by Ottawa-Hull (8.2%), Montreal (4.5%), and Halifax (3.3%). Sudbury-Thunder Bay (-0.3%) and Windsor (-0.1%) experienced declines. Calgary and Edmonton continued to show steady price growth at 2.8% and 2.1% respectively. |
| Canada | 106.8 | 0.1% | 2.8% | |
| Edmonton | 114.7 | 0.1% | 2.1% | |
| Calgary | 136.7 | 0.1% | 2.8% | |
| (1992=100) | | | | |
| New Motor Vehicle Sales | October | | | New motor vehicle sales in Canada increased 2.9% in October and 6.1% from October 2000, partly offsetting September's drop of 5.2%. New vehicle sales increased for most provinces in October, with Nova Scotia (12.9%), New Brunswick (11.5%) and Manitoba (8.4%) experiencing the largest increases, while Prince Edward Island (-0.8%) and Saskatchewan (-0.1%) experiencing the only declines. |
| Canada | 131,265 | 2.9% | 6.1% | |
| Alberta | 15,733 | 5.4% | 9.7% | |
| Urban Housing Starts (thousands) | November | | | Total housing starts in Canada fell in November by 3% to 168,900 units, while urban housing starts also fell by 3% to 147,400 units. Five provinces posted increases in housing starts, with the largest percentage increases in Prince Edward Island (50%), Newfoundland (33%) and Nova Scotia (26.1%). New Brunswick (-67.3%) had the largest decrease. Alberta's housing starts fell 2.5% in November to 27,600, but increased up 17.4% from November 2000. |
| Alberta | 27,600 | -2.5% | 17.4% | |
| Canada | 147,400 | -3.0% | 11.6% | |
| Rigs Drilling | November | | | The number of active rigs drilling in Alberta declined by 3.3% in November, reflecting the seasonal downturn in activity. This month's 26.1% decrease in drilling compared to October 2000 reflects lower energy prices. Year to date, rig activity is up 4.9% compared to the same period last year. |
| | 247 | -3.3% | -26.1% | |